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FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

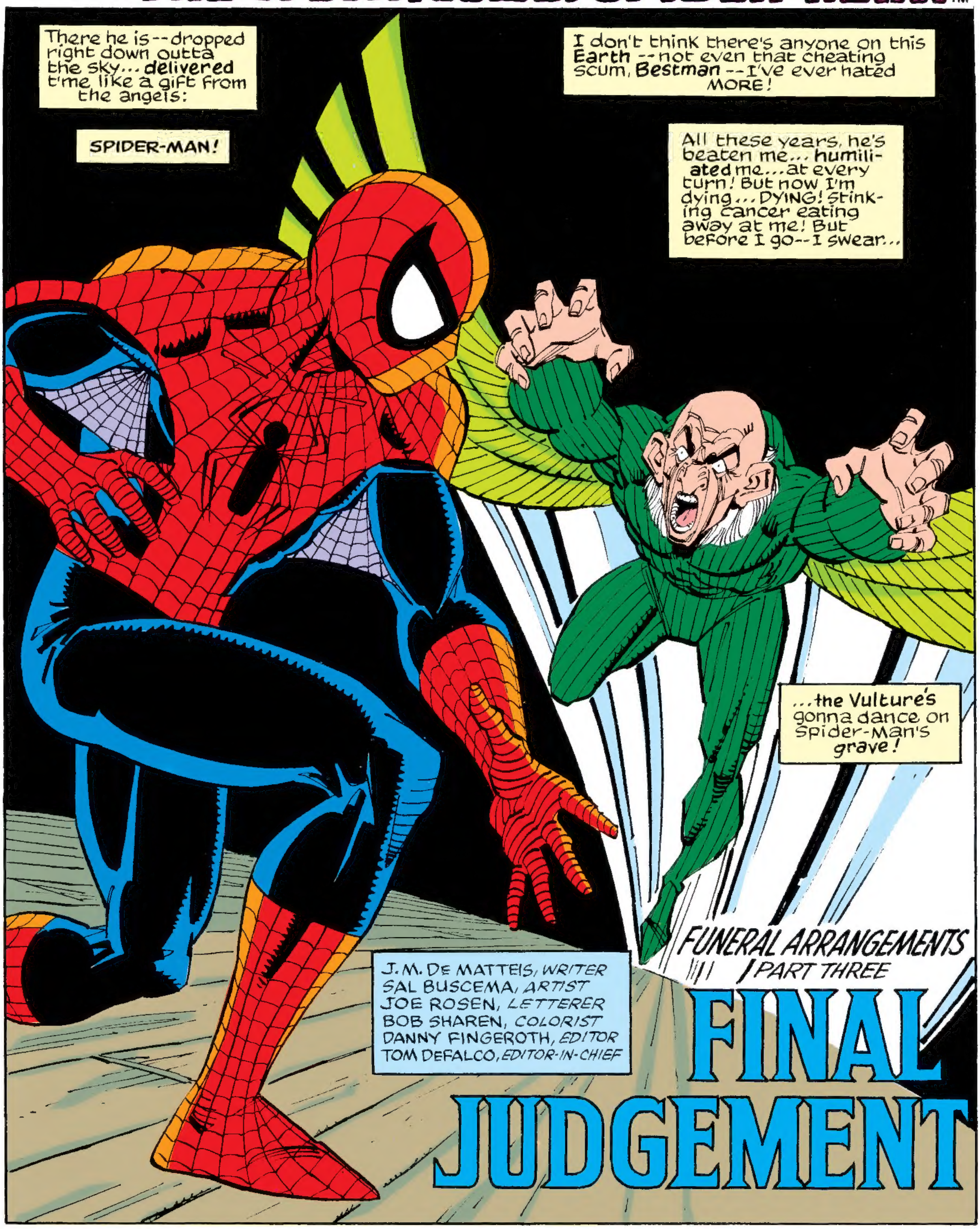
CONCLUSION

the SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN®

Jack Buscema

BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER, STUDENT PETER PARKER GAINED THE PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH AND AGILITY OF AN ARACHNID! ARMED WITH HIS WONDROUS WEB-SHOOTERS, THE RELUCTANT SUPER HERO STRUGGLES WITH SINISTER SUPER-VILLAINS, MAKING ENDS MEET, AND MAINTAINING SOME SEMBLANCE OF A NORMAL LIFE!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN!™


There he is--dropped right down outta the sky... delivered t'me like a gift from the angels:
SPIDER-MAN!
I don't think there's anyone on this Earth--not even that cheating scum, Bestman--I've ever hated MORE!
All these years, he's beaten me... humiliated me... at every turn! But now I'm dying... DYING! Stinking cancer eating away at me! But before I go--I swear...
...the Vulture's gonna dance on Spider-Man's grave!

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FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS
PART THREE

FINAL JUDGEMENT

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YOU'RE GETTING *SLOPPY* IN YOUR OLD AGE, ADRIAN! SLOPPY-- AND *STUPID!*

YOU *KNEW* I WAS OUT THERE *LOOKING* FOR YOU--AND YET, AFTER YOU KIDNAPPED THAT *PARKER* KID--

--YOU CAME *HERE*--TO A HIDEOUT WHERE WE'D FOUGHT *BEFORE!*

He's **right!** I was sloppy!

But I don't really *have* to be careful, anymore, *do* I? I'm a dead man *anyway!*

WHEN PARKER TOOK THAT DIVE OUT THE DOOR, THAT WAS MY CUE TO SAVE HIM, COME IN--AND TAKE YOU *DOWN!*

And in a Funny way...

AND *BELIEVE* ME, YOU'RE GOING DOWN--

...that gives me the upper *hand.*

--FAST...?!

SURPRISE!

SURPRISE!

SURPRISE!

I TOLD YOU IN *QUEENS* THE OTHER NIGHT THAT I'M STRONGER--AND FASTER--THAN EVER! PUSHED MY POWER-PACK *WAY* BEYOND THE SAFETY LIMITS!

THE BEAUTY OF IT *IS*-- THE VERY THING THAT'S SENDING *ME* T'*MY* GRAVE--

--IS GONNA SEND *YOU* T'*YOURS!*

I MEAN, WHAT'S THERE T'WORRY ABOUT *NOW?* BLASTED ELECTROMAGNETIC WAVES ARE KILLING ME *ALREADY!*

I'M

NOT

SPRAKKK

DEAD

YET!

SPOK!

KRAK!

Feisty as ever. **Good.** I wouldn't want this t'be TOO easy!

I want the struggle to be **glorious** -- an' I want the whole **world** bearing WITNESS! So what better place t'FINISH this than up **here** ...

...at the **top** of the world?

WE'RE GOING *UP*, SPIDER-MAN! WAY, WAY UP!

THE TWO OF US ARE FLYING STRAIGHT TOWARD THE GATES OF *HEAVEN*--

--AND THEN *YOU'RE* MAKIN' THE LONG DROP DOWN TO THE PITS OF *HADES!*

VULTURE--ARE YOU *CRAZY?* UP *THIS* HIGH--THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE WE'RE *BOTH* GOING TO DIE!

I DON'T *THINK* SO!

THE SKY'S MY *ELEMENT!*

MY **home.** The rushing wind. Soaring so high above all the worthless **maggots** down below.

Sweet sky: Only place I've ever felt a little **peace.**

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO HASN'T GOT A *PRAYER!*

THIS DOESN'T MAKE ANY *SENSE!* IF WHAT YOU SAY IS *TRUE*-- IF YOU REALLY *ARE* DYING--

--THEN WHAT'S THE POINT IN SPENDING YOUR LAST DAYS INFLICTING MORE *PAIN* ON PEOPLE? HAVEN'T YOU DONE *ENOUGH* OF THAT?

FACE YOUR DEATH WITH *DIGNI-TY!* DON'T GO OUT LIKE SOME... *VULTURE--*

--GO LIKE A *MAN!*

YOU'RE *FORGETTING* SOMETHING, SPIDER-MAN--

--I AM A VULTURE!

AND I WANT

YOU

DEAD!!

...WE'RE DOING ALL WE *CAN*, MRS. PARKER.

WE'LL FIND TOOMES *AND* YOUR NEPHEW. IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE WE--

HOW CAN YOU BE SO *SURE*? YOU'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO STOP THAT VULTURE *BEFORE!*

H-HE'S A *KILLER!* HE KILLED MY *NATHAN* --AND NOW HE'S GOING TO KILL *PETER!*

PLEASE, MRS. PARKER ...I...AH...I *UNDER-STAND* WHAT YOU'RE GOING THROUGH, BUT--

NO. YOU DO *NOT* UNDER-STAND!

YOU DON'T KNOW ME *OR* MY FAMILY! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT WE'VE STRUGGLED AND *SUFFERED* THROUGH ALL OUR LIVES!

NOW YOU GET OUT OF HERE--AND YOU GET TO WORK--AND YOU FIND MY NEPHEW AND BRING HIM BACK TO ME SAFE AND SOUND--

--DO YOU HEAR ME?

...UHHH...

DO YOU HEAR ME?

YES, MA'AM--

--I *DO.*

ONE MORE THING BEFORE YOU GO, DETECTIVE BRODSKY--

WHAT?

BE CAREFUL.

WILL DO, MRS. PARKER.

WILL DO.

...NOW THAT'S A LADY I'D LIKE T'HAVE WORRYING ABOUT ME.

YOU SAID IT. AND THE RED-HEAD WASN'T BAD, EITHER. Y'KNOW, I THINK I'VE SEEN HER ON TV.

COULD BE. SURE GOT THE LOOKS FOR IT.

THIS PARKER GUY'S PRETTY LUCKY T'HAVE THOSE TWO IN HIS CORNER.

YEAH. LET'S JUST HOPE HIS LUCK--

--HASN'T RUN OUT.

I've toyed with him long enough!

NO MORE *GAMES*, SPIDER-MAN!

TIME TO *DIE!*

PWAM!

One solid punch should knock him loose and send him--

NO!

IT'S *TIME* ALL RIGHT-- BUT NOT TO *DIE!*

I'M PUTTING A *STOP* TO THIS LUNACY --HERE AND NOW!

Forgot how **fast** he is...and his GRIP! Even with my strength **increased**...I can't hold him **off!**

He's forcing me *DOWN!*

THERE'S BEEN *ENOUGH* PAIN, VULTURE! BEST-MAN IS *DEAD*... YOU'VE *TERROR-IZED* THE PARKERS--

--GOD KNOWS WHO *ELSE* HAS SUFFERED BECAUSE OF YOU!

GIVE IT *UP!* LET IT *END!*

END?

WHAT DO *YOU* KNOW ABOUT *ENDINGS?*

I CAN FEEL EVERY LAST SECOND OF MY LIFE TICKING *AWAY!* I CAN SMELL THE STINK O' THE GRAVE... *MY* GRAVE! ...ALL *AROUND* ME!

AN' I *REFUSE* T'GO OUT LIKE SOME PATHETIC OLD *FOOL!*

LIKE THOSE DROOLING, BED-WETTING MANNE-QUINS IN THE *NURSING* HOME!

I'M GONNA GO OUT THE WAY I *LIVED*--

ANGRY! FIGHTING! *CLAWING* AT ALL THE TRAITORS AND LIARS AROUND ME!

WHEN THIS CANCER FINALLY *KILLS* ME... WHEN I MEET THE REAPER FACE T'FACE... I'M GONNA KNOW THAT THE BLOOD OF MY *ENEMIES* PREPARED THE WAY!

YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR *MIND!*

OF COURSE.

KLIK

FRA

KKK!!

WHAT... WHAT DID YOU *DO*?!

PUSHED THE POWER-PACK RIGHT OVER THE *EDGE!*

THE ELECTRO-MAGNETIC WAVES...THEY'RE *FLOODING* ME... *FILLING* ME! IT'S... *INCREDIBLE! INCREDIBLE!*

YOU'VE PUSHED IT TOO FAR! *LISTEN* TO IT! SOUNDS LIKE IT'S GONNA--

SHUT--

--UP!

Up: higher than I've ever *flown*. Away from all that misery down there! Away from lies and age and death!

Yes...I'll keep going...going up...through the clouds... and I'll touch the stars!

I'll touch the stars!

WEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE

With this power... there's nothing I can't do!

Nothing that can stop me!

Not even DEATH!

Not even--

OOOF!!

WHUMP!

ENOUGH'S ENOUGH, ADRIAN!

I MEAN, FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, I DON'T EVEN HAVE ANY FLIGHT INSURANCE!

Him! Always him! Bad enough Bestman betraying me like that... making me feel like a senile, old fool!!

But even after I re-made myself... became the Vulture...

... Spider Man was always there to remind me how little I'd really changed!

How weak I STILL was! How old and fragile!

WELL YOU'RE NOT GONNA DO IT ANYMORE DO YOU HEAR ME?!

I'M GONNA KILL YOU! I'M GONNA KILL YOU!

KRAK!

KILL YOUR YOUTH! KILL YOUR ARRO-GANCE!

AND... AND I'M GONNA LIVE FOREVER! FOREV--

--ER.

CHAK AK AK AK

WEEEEEEEEEE

F-F-FIRE...?

WHOOO

That's **it**, then: I die... even sooner than I **expected.**

VULTURE... *LISTEN* TO ME--

I THINK WE'VE... WE'VE GOT A *CHANCE*--!

What's wrong with him?

Battered half-conscious--and **still** he struggles back!

IF I CAN JUST GET THIS... POWER-PACK *OFF* YOU--

Doesn't he understand? It's **better** this way. Go down, fast, in a ball of **flame.**

My whole miserable life's been nothing but **one** failure after **another.**

THERE!

At least **this** way... it'll be over in the wink of an **eye.** No suffering. No pity.

Just a quick burn and crash into **oblivion.**

One less senile **idiot** in the world.

What a wretched life I've had! What a wretched **fool** I've been!

But, at least I've got the satisfaction of knowing that, when **I** go down, so does...

...Spider-Man?!

THWIP!

NO! WHAT ARE YOU *DOING?!*

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

SAVING OUR LIVES!

A WEB PARACHUTE TO SLOW OUR *DESCENT*--

THWIP!

--AND A LITTLE SOME-THING *EXTRA*--

--TO CUSHION THE--

--FAAALLL!!

NOT THE *SOFTEST* LANDING ON RECORD--

--BUT AT LEAST I'M IN ONE *PIECE.*

LOOKS LIKE YOU ARE, *TOO*, ADRIAN. *BURNS* DON'T LOOK TOO BAD, EITHER. GUESS IT'S YOUR LUCKY *DAY*, HUH?

NO, NO, DON'T *THANK* ME. AFTER ALL, I ONLY SAVED YOUR MURDERING *SKIN*--

Mm

WHAT'D YOU SAY?

WHY DIDN'T YOU LET ME DIE?

NOPE--

--IT'S NOT GOING TO BE *THAT* EASY.

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK

MRS. PARKER--I BELIEVE THIS MAN HAS SOMETHING HE'D LIKE TO *SAY* TO YOU--

--DON'T YOU, VULTURE?

...I...

I...*APOLOGIZE*... FOR ALL THE PAIN I'VE CAUSED YOU AND YOUR FAMILY.

I HOPE YOUR DEATH IS *LONG*--

--AND FULL OF *SUFFER-ING.*

I'M SURE IT WILL BE, SWEET LADY...

I'm *sure* it will be.

I...GUESS I'LL BE *GOING*

WAIT--

MY HUSBAND... *PETER PARKER*... IS HE ALL RIGHT?

HIS AUNT IS... I MEAN, WE'RE *BOTH*... SO *WORRIED* ABOUT HIM.

WELL, WORRY NO MORE. PARKER'S FINE. HARDLY A MARK ON HIM. HE'S A PRETTY FEISTY GUY.

AFTER I GOT HIM AWAY FROM THE VULTURE I...AH... SLIPPED HIM SOME MONEY FOR A *CAB* AND...UH--

THANK YOU, SPIDER-MAN. FOR SAVING MY PETER. FOR...*ALL* YOU'VE DONE.

MRS. PARKER--

--IT WAS MY PLEASURE!

--WHY'RE MY TWO FAVORITE GIRLS LOOKING SO GLUM?

PETER!!

HEY--

NOW, THAT'S MORE LIKE IT! LEMME SEE THOSE TEETH!

BUT-- HOW DID YOU--?

CAME IN THE BACK DOOR, AUNT MAY. DIDN'T REALLY WANNA BUMP INTO THE VULTURE.

AFTER TONIGHT, I HOPE I NEVER SEE THAT UGLY FACE AGAIN!

OH, PETER... PETER, DEAR... ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

I WILL BE--

--AFTER I GIVE YOU TWO THE BIGGEST HUG IN THE HISTORY OF HUGGING!

POLICE

TOOMES--

HEY-- TOOMES!

YA GOT A VISITOR.

NOW YOU BE A GOOD BOY, TOOMES -- 'CAUSE I'M JUST GONNA BE A FEW FEET AWAY--

--WATCHIN' EVERYTHING YOU DO.

MRS. PARKER... PLEASE... I'VE BEEN HUMILIATED ENOUGH. I--

I HAVE NO INTENTION OF HUMILIATING YOU.

THEN WHY ARE YOU HERE?

I'M NOT REALLY *SURE* WHY I'M HERE. IT'S JUST...

I'VE TRIED MY BEST TO LIVE A GOOD LIFE. TO TREAT PEOPLE THE WAY *I'D* EXPECT TO BE TREATED.

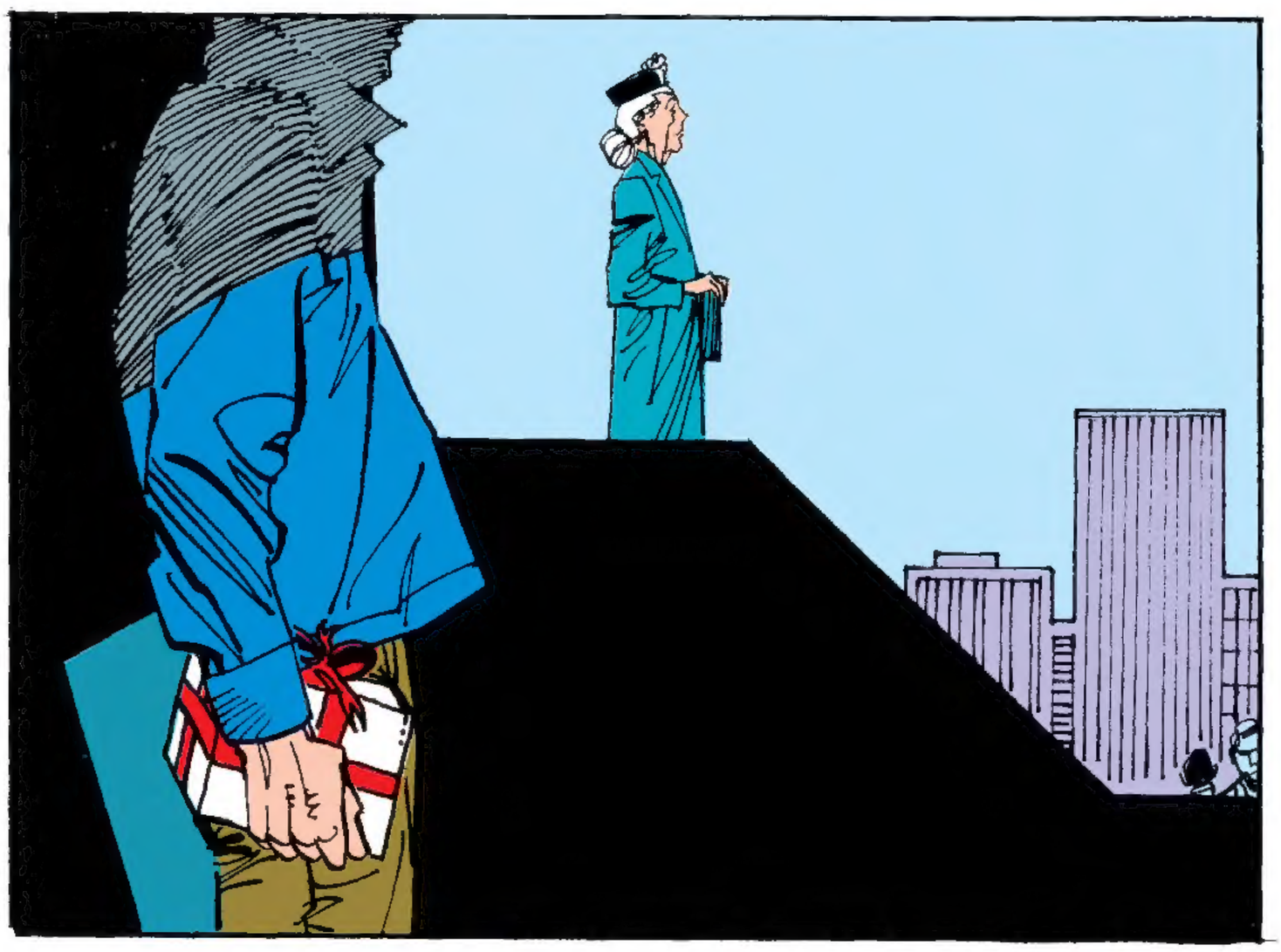
HEAVEN KNOWS YOU DON'T DESERVE IT...YOU KILLED MY NATHAN... AND *MORE*, I'M TOLD. BUT--

WHAT I SAID TO YOU LAST NIGHT... I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER SAID SUCH A THING TO ANYONE IN MY ENTIRE LIFE IT'S-- IT'S NOT *RIGHT*. IF I DESCEND TO YOUR LEVEL. I--

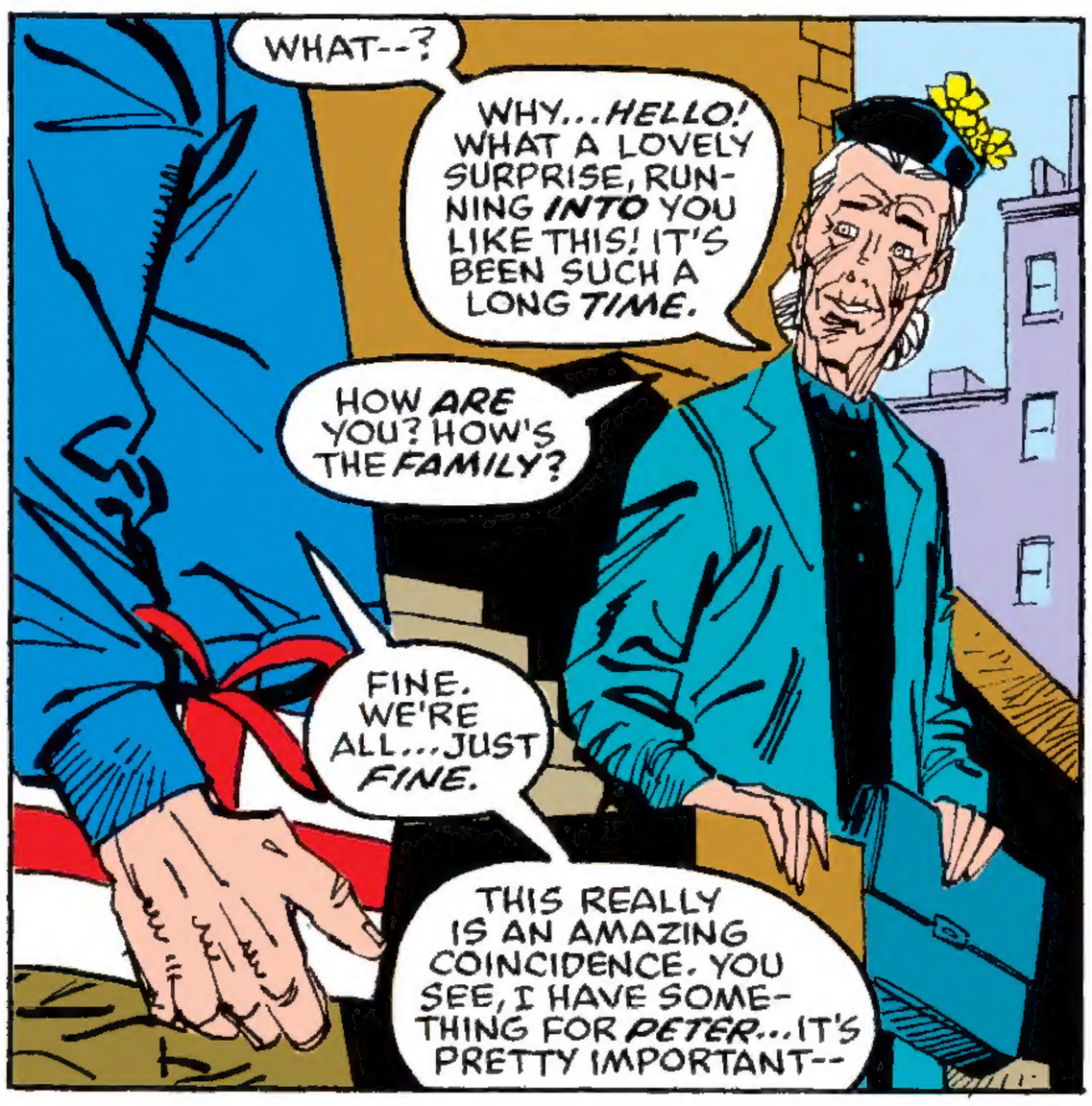
WHAT I'M TRYING TO *SAY* IS...YOU...YOU HAVEN'T GOT LONG IN THIS WORLD. MAYBE *I* DON'T EITHER. AND I AM *NOT* GOING TO. WASTE WHAT PRECIOUS TIME I HAVE LEFT IN *HATING* YOU.

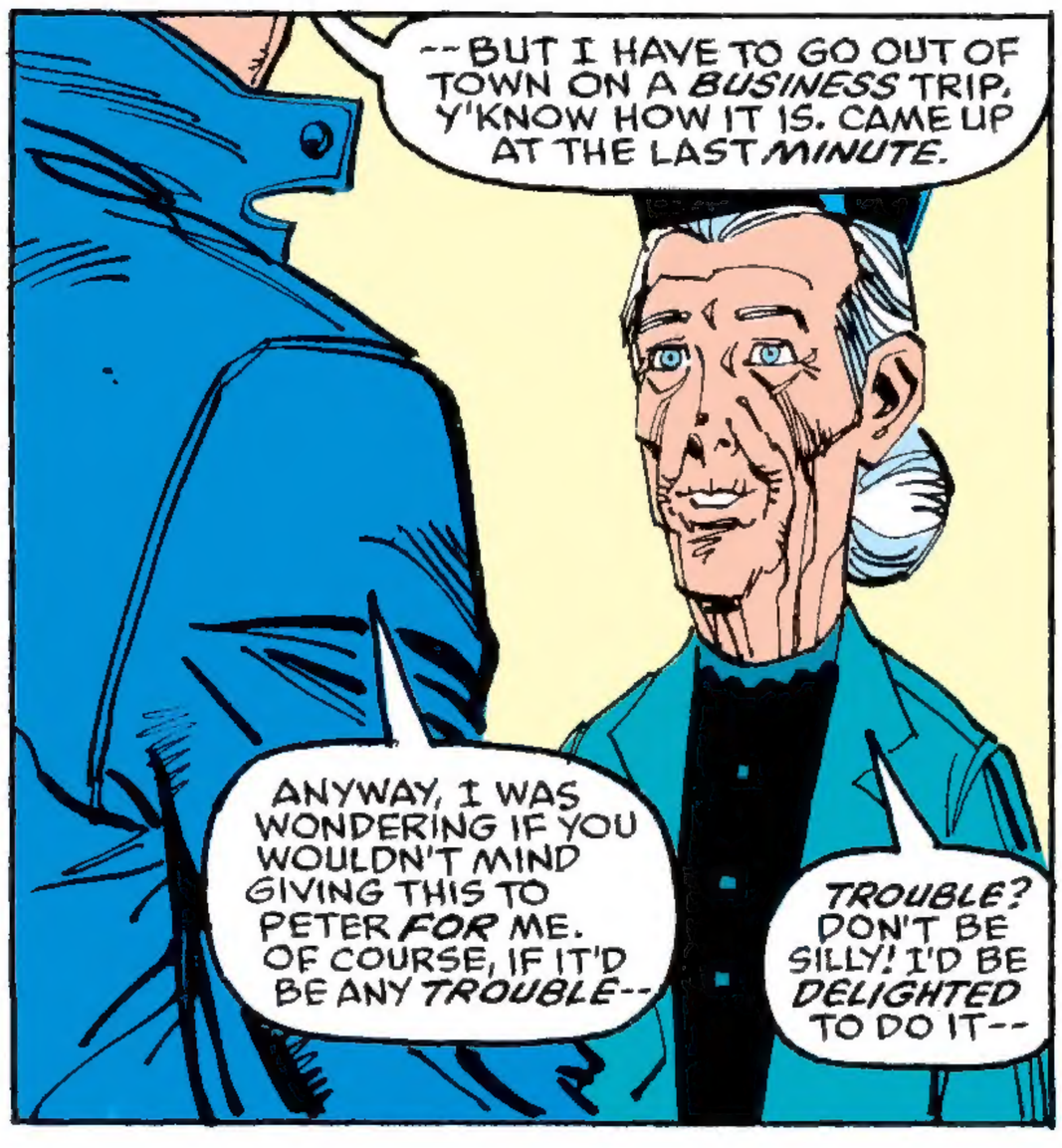
AS FOR *FORGIVENESS* FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE-- I CAN'T *GIVE* YOU THAT. THAT'S BETWEEN YOU--

--AND *GOD.*



MRS. PARKER!
MRS. PARKER!


WHAT--?
WHY...HELLO! WHAT A LOVELY SURPRISE, RUNNING INTO YOU LIKE THIS! IT'S BEEN SUCH A LONG TIME.
HOW ARE YOU? HOW'S THE FAMILY?
FINE. WE'RE ALL...JUST FINE.
THIS REALLY IS AN AMAZING COINCIDENCE. YOU SEE, I HAVE SOMETHING FOR PETER...IT'S PRETTY IMPORTANT--


--BUT I HAVE TO GO OUT OF TOWN ON A BUSINESS TRIP. Y'KNOW HOW IT IS. CAME UP AT THE LAST MINUTE.
ANYWAY, I WAS WONDERING IF YOU WOULDN'T MIND GIVING THIS TO PETER FOR ME. OF COURSE, IF IT'D BE ANY TROUBLE--
TROUBLE? DON'T BE SILLY! I'D BE DELIGHTED TO DO IT--

--HARRY.

IT'S A LITTLE ON THE *FRAGILE* SIDE...SO TREAT IT *GENTLY*, OK?

OH, WHAT A LOVELY JOB YOU DID *WRAPPING* IT.

WELL, NOTHING'S TOO GOOD FOR OUR *PETER*. AND DON'T YOU DARE PEEK *INSIDE*, MRS. PARKER--

--I WANT THIS TO BE A *TOTAL SURPRISE*.

HARRY OSBORN! I WOULDN'T *THINK* OF PEEKING!

FORGIVE ME, MY TRESPASSES, M'LADY! I SHALL *NEVER* SPEAK SO BRAZENLY TO YOU AGAIN!

OH, HARRY-- YOU ALWAYS BRING A *SMILE* TO MY FACE, JUST LIKE PETER!

AND NOW-- I'M *OFF!*

I'D OFFER YOU A *RIDE*, BUT I'M RUNNING EXTREMELY LATE AS IT IS.

THAT'S QUITE ALL *RIGHT*, DEAR. THE BUS STOP'S JUST UP THE *BLOCK*.

IT WAS *WONDERFUL* SEEING YOU AGAIN, MRS. PARKER. YOU BE SURE AND SEND ALL MY LOVE TO PETER AND MARY JANE.

'BYE, NOW!

GOOD-BYE, HARRY. SEND MY BEST TO *LIZ* AND LITTLE *NORMAN!*

HAVE A SAFE *TRIP!*

I hope he's all right. He seemed a little... nervous. Like something wasn't quite right. Probably just pre-travel jitters.

Harry's always been so sensitive. And so dear. Of all Peter's friends...

...I've always liked him best.

PROLOGUE

IN THE DARKNESS, IN THE SHADOWS, IN THE SILENCE...

...A MAN DRIFTS AND TUMBLES THROUGH HIS OWN DISTORTED DREAMS.

FOR SO MANY YEARS, HE'S FELT SO SMALL, SO VULNERABLE. SO BROKEN AND AFRAID.

HE'S TRIED --SO **VERY** HARD-- TO BE THE MAN HIS FATHER WANTED HIM TO BE. BUT IT'S BEEN DIFFICULT. IMPOSSIBLE, REALLY.

SOMETHING HAS ALWAYS HAPPENED TO REDUCE HIM, ONCE AGAIN, TO A TEARY-EYED, QUIVERING LITTLE BOY.

BUT THESE PAST MONTHS, HE'S HIDDEN HIMSELF AWAY, SUBMERGED HIMSELF; TRIED HIS BEST TO MAKE SENSE OUT OF A SEEMINGLY SENSELESS LIFE.

AND NOW, HE BELIEVES, HE'S FOUND THE ANSWER.

NOW--HE'S FOUND THE **POWER.**

NOW--ONCE AND FOR ALL-- HARRY OSBORN HAS THE MEANS TO **SLAY** THE CHILD WITHIN AND RISE UP TO HIS FULL, ADULT **HEIGHT.**

RENEWED.

REBORN.

AND TOTALLY INSANE.

NEXT: THE **GREEN GOBLIN** RETURNS--AND HE'S OUT FOR BLOOD!

BE HERE FOR AN UNFORGETTABLE DOUBLE-SIZE EXTRAVAGANZA-- AS WE CELEBRATE SPIDER-MAN'S **30TH ANNIVERSARY** AND EXPLORE THE CHILLING RAMIFICATIONS OF-- "THE OSBORN LEGACY!"